

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed February 12, 2007. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 7 – 14 are pending. In particular, Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 4, 6, 20 – 25, 31 and 32 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 1 – 4, 6, 20 – 25, 31 and 32 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public.

Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowed Claims

The Office Action indicates that claims 7 – 14 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Office Action indicates that claims 1 – 4, 6, 20 – 25, 31 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Dieckert* in view of JP 01-102230, *Weimer* and *Aler*. With respect to claims 1 – 4, 6, 20 – 25, 31 and 32, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims have been canceled and that the rejections, therefore, have been rendered moot.

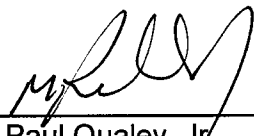
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Paul Qualey, Jr.
Reg. No. 43,024

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500